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checking, by the license provider, the license request for validity;
negotiating, by the license requestor and the license provider, terms and
conditions for the requested license;
generating, by the license provider, the requested license; and
issuing, by the license provider, the generated license to the license
requestor.

107. The method of claim 106 wherein the digital content has corresponding
license acquisition information including a location of a license provider for providing the
license, the method further comprising determining, by the license requestor, the location of the
license provider from the license acquisition information, wherein contacting the license
provider comprises contacting the license provider at the determined location.

108. The method of claim 106 wherein the license provider is a license server
attached to a communications network, and wherein contacting the license server occurs over the
communications network.

109. The method of claim 108 wherein sending the license request and issuing
the generated license occur over the established network connection.

110. The method of claim 106 wherein the license request originates from a
device including a security portion, and wherein sending the license request comprises sending

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license request information to the license provider, the license request information including:

an identification of the device;

an identification of the license requestor;

a public key of the device;

a version number of the security portion;

a certificate with a digital signature from a certifying authority
certifying the security portion;

a content ID that identifies the digital content; and

a key ID that identifies a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the
digital content.

111. The method of claim 110 wherein generating the requested license
comprises generating the requested license based on the license request information.

112. The method of claim 106 wherein the license request originates from a
device including a security portion, wherein sending the license request comprises sending
license request information to the license provider, the license request information including a
version number of the security portion, and wherein checking the license request for validity
includes checking the version number of the security portion to determine whether such version
number is current.

113. The method of claim 112 further comprising refusing to issue the

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requested license until the security portion is upgraded to a version having a current version number.

114. The method of claim 106 wherein the license request originates from a device including a security portion, wherein sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license provider, the license request information including a certificate with a digital signature from a certifying authority certifying the security portion, and wherein checking the license request for validity includes checking the certificate with the digital signature from the certifying authority to determine whether such digital signature has been modified.

115. The method of claim 106 wherein sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license provider, the license request information including an identification of the license requestor, and wherein checking the license request for validity includes checking the identified license requestor against a list of license requestors to determine whether such license requestor is license-able.

116. The method of claim 106 wherein the license request originates from a device, wherein sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license provider, the license request information including an identification of the device, and wherein checking the license request for validity includes checking the identified device against a list of devices to determine whether such device is license-able.

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117. The method of claim 106 wherein sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license provider, the license request information including a content ID that identifies the digital content, the method further comprising locating, by the license provider, license provider information corresponding to the digital content based on the content ID, the license provider information including a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, license data regarding types of licenses available for the digital content, and terms and conditions for each type of license

118. The method of claim 117 further comprising transmitting, from the license provider to the license requestor, information on the types of licenses available for the digital content.

119. The method of claim 117 wherein generating the requested license comprises generating a license including:

the content ID of the digital content; and

the terms and conditions of the license.

120. The method of claim 119 wherein the license request originates from a device having a public key, and wherein generating the requested license comprises generating a license further including the decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, such decryption key (KD) being encrypted with the public key of the device.

121. The method of claim 119 wherein generating the requested license comprises generating a license further including a digital signature from the license provider based on at least a portion of the generated license, the digital signature being encrypted with a license provider private key.

122. The method of claim 119 wherein generating the requested license comprises generating a license further including a certificate indicating that the license provider has the authority to issue the generated license.

123. The method of claim 106 wherein sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license provider, the license request information including a key ID that identifies a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, the method further comprising locating, by the license provider, the decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content based on the key ID.

124. The method of claim 123 wherein the license request originates from a device having a public key, and wherein generating the requested license comprises generating a license including the decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, such decryption key (KD) being encrypted with the public key of the device.

125. The method of claim 106 wherein negotiating the terms and conditions

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includes providing, by the license requestor to the license provider, further information as defined by the license provider.

126. The method of claim 106 wherein negotiating the terms and conditions includes determining a payment instrument for paying for the requested license.

127. The method of claim 106 wherein negotiating the terms and conditions includes determining a payment schedule for paying for the requested license.

128. The method of claim 106 wherein generating the requested license comprises generating the requested license based on the license request.

129. The method of claim 106 further comprising maintaining, by the license provider, a record of the issued license.

130. The method of claim 129 further comprising providing, by the license provider to the license requestor, a re-issue of the issued license based upon the record of the issued license and upon request by the license requestor, wherein the re-issue can replace the issued license in the case where the issued license is lost.

131. The method of claim 106 further comprising placing, by the license requestor, the issued license in a license storage location.

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132. The method of claim 106 wherein issuing the generated license comprises issuing the generated license in a form separate from the digital content.

133. The digital license as obtained by the method of claim 106.

134. The license of claim 133 for rendering a piece of digital content on a device having a public key and a private key, the digital content having a content ID, being encrypted, and being decryptable with a decryption key (KD), the digital license comprising:

- the content ID of the digital content;
- a license rights description specifying terms and conditions that must be satisfied before the digital content may be rendered; and
- the decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, the decryption key being encrypted with the public key of the device (PU(KD)), wherein the device can apply the private key thereof to (PU(KD)) to obtain the decryption key (KD).

135. The license of claim 134 wherein the license rights description is encrypted with the decryption key (KD).

136. The license of claim 134 further comprising a digital signature for validating the license.

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137. The license of claim 136 wherein the license is provided by a license server having a private key and a public key, and wherein the digital signature is encrypted with the private key of the license server.

138. The license of claim 136 wherein the digital signature is based at least in part on the license rights description, wherein alteration of the license rights description prevents the digital signature from validating the license.

139. The license of claim 136 wherein the digital signature is based at least in part on (PU(KD)), wherein alteration of (PU(KD)) prevents the digital signature from validating the license.

140. The license of claim 134 wherein the license rights description is written in a predetermined license language, the digital license further comprising a license language tag specifying the license language.

141. The license of claim 134 wherein the license is provided by a license server and the digital content is provided by a content server, the license further comprising a certificate from the content server indicating that the license server has authority from the content server to provide the license.

142. The license of claim 141 wherein the license server has a public key and a

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private key, and wherein the certificate includes the public key of the license server.

143. The license of claim 142 wherein the content server has a public key and a private key, wherein the certificate is signed with the private key of the content server, and wherein the device obtains the public key of the content server to decrypt the encrypted signature.

144. The license of claim 134 wherein the license is provided by a license server authorized by a root source to provide the license, the license further comprising a certificate from the root source indicating that the license server has authority from the root source to provide the license.

145. The license of claim 144 wherein the license server has a public key and a private key, and wherein the certificate includes the public key of the license server.

146. The license of claim 145 wherein the root source has a public key and a private key, wherein the certificate is signed with the private key of the root source, and wherein the device obtains the public key of the root source to decrypt the encrypted signature.

147. The license of claim 134 wherein the license is provided by a license server authorized by an intermediary source to provide the license, the intermediary source in turn being authorized by a root source to authorize the license server, the license further

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comprising a first certificate from the root source indicating that the intermediary source has authority from the root source to authorize the license server, and a second certificate from the intermediary source indicating that the license server has authority from the intermediary source to provide the license.

148. The license of claim 147 wherein the license server has a public key and a private key, wherein the intermediary source has a public key and a private key, wherein the first certificate includes the public key of the intermediary source, and wherein the second certificate includes the public key of the license server.

149. The license of claim 148 wherein the root source has a public key and a private key, wherein the first certificate is signed with the private key of the root source, wherein the second certificate is signed with the private key of the intermediary source, and wherein the device obtains the public key of the root source to decrypt the encrypted signature of the first certificate, and wherein the device obtains the public key of the intermediary source from the first certificate to decrypt the encrypted signature of the second certificate.

150. A method for a license requestor to obtain a digital license for rendering a piece of digital content comprising:

contacting a license provider;

sending a license request for the license to the contacted license provider,

the license provider thereafter checking the license request for validity;

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negotiating terms and conditions for the requested license with the license provider, the license provider thereafter generating the requested license; and
receiving the generated license as issued by the license provider.

151. The method of claim 150 wherein the digital content has corresponding license acquisition information including a location of a license provider for providing the license, the method further comprising determining the location of the license provider from the license acquisition information, wherein contacting the license provider comprises contacting the license provider at the determined location.

152. The method of claim 150 wherein the license provider is a license server attached to a communications network, and wherein contacting the license server occurs over the communications network.

153. The method of claim 152 wherein sending the license request and receiving the generated license occur over the established network connection.

154. The method of claim 150 wherein the license request originates from a device including a security portion, and wherein sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license provider, the license request information including:

an identification of the device;

an identification of the license requestor;

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a public key of the device;
a version number of the security portion;
a certificate with a digital signature from a certifying authority
certifying the security portion;
a content ID that identifies the digital content; and
a key ID that identifies a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the
digital content.

155. The method of claim 150 wherein the license request originates from a device including a security portion, wherein sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license provider, the license request information including a version number of the security portion, the license provider checking the version number of the security portion to determine whether such version number is current.

156. The method of claim 150 wherein the license request originates from a device including a security portion, wherein sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license provider, the license request information including a certificate with a digital signature from a certifying authority certifying the security portion, license provider checking the certificate with the digital signature from the certifying authority to determine whether such digital signature has been modified.

157. The method of claim 150 wherein sending the license request comprises

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sending license request information to the license provider, the license request information including an identification of the license requestor, the license provider checking the identified license requestor against a list of license requestors to determine whether such license requestor is license-able.

158. The method of claim 150 wherein the license request originates from a device, wherein sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license provider, the license request information including an identification of the device, the license provider checking the identified device against a list of devices to determine whether such device is license-able.

159. The method of claim 150 wherein sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license provider, the license request information including a content ID that identifies the digital content, the license provider locating license provider information corresponding to the digital content based on the content ID.

160. The method of claim 159 wherein the license provider information includes a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, license data regarding types of licenses available for the digital content, and terms and conditions for each type of license, the method further comprising receiving from the license provider information on the types of licenses available for the digital content.

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161. The method of claim 159 wherein receiving the requested license comprises receiving a license including:

the content ID of the digital content; and

the terms and conditions of the license.

162. The method of claim 161 wherein the license request originates from a device having a public key, and wherein receiving the requested license comprises receiving a license further including the decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, such decryption key (KD) being encrypted with the public key of the device.

163. The method of claim 161 wherein receiving the requested license comprises receiving a license further including a digital signature from the license provider based on at least a portion of the generated license, the digital signature being encrypted with a license provider private key.

164. The method of claim 161 wherein receiving the requested license comprises receiving a license further including a certificate indicating that the license provider has the authority to issue the generated license.

165. The method of claim 150 wherein sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license provider, the license request information including a key ID that identifies a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, the

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license provider locating the decryption key (KD) based on the key ID.

166. The method of claim 165 wherein the license request originates from a device having a public key, and wherein receiving the requested license comprises receiving a license including the decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, such decryption key (KD) being encrypted with the public key of the device.

167. The method of claim 150 wherein negotiating the terms and conditions includes providing further information to the license provider as defined thereby.

168. The method of claim 150 wherein negotiating the terms and conditions includes determining a payment instrument for paying for the requested license.

169. The method of claim 150 wherein negotiating the terms and conditions includes determining a payment schedule for paying for the requested license.

170. The method of claim 150 wherein the license provider maintains a record of the issued license, the method further comprising receiving from the license provider upon request a re-issue of the issued license based upon the record of the issued license, wherein the re-issue can replace the issued license in the case where the issued license is lost.

171. The method of claim 150 further comprising placing the issued license in

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a license storage location.

172. The method of claim 150 wherein the receiving the license step comprises receiving the license in a form separate from the digital content.

Pat B1 173. A method for a license provider to provide a digital license for rendering a piece of digital content comprising:

- receiving a request for the license from a license requestor;
- checking the license request for validity;
- negotiating terms and conditions for the requested license with the license requestor;
- generating the requested license; and
- issuing the generated license to the license requestor.

174. The method of claim 173 wherein the license provider is a license server attached to a communications network, and wherein receiving the license request occurs over the communications network.

175. The method of claim 174 wherein issuing the generated license occur over the communications network.

176. The method of claim 173 wherein the license request originates from a

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device including a security portion, and wherein receiving the license request comprises receiving license request information including:

an identification of the device;

an identification of the license requestor;

a public key of the device;

a version number of the security portion;

a certificate with a digital signature from a certifying authority certifying the security portion;

a content ID that identifies the digital content; and

a key ID that identifies a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content.

177. The method of claim 176 wherein generating the requested license comprises generating the requested license based on the license request information.

178. The method of claim 173 wherein the license request originates from a device including a security portion, wherein receiving the license request comprises receiving license request information including a version number of the security portion, and wherein checking the license request for validity includes checking the version number of the security portion to determine whether such version number is current.

179. The method of claim 178 further comprising refusing to issue the

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requested license until the security portion is upgraded to a version having a current version number.

180. The method of claim 173 wherein the license request originates from a device including a security portion, wherein receiving the license request comprises receiving license request information including a certificate with a digital signature from a certifying authority certifying the security portion, and wherein checking the license request for validity includes checking the certificate with the digital signature from the certifying authority to determine whether such digital signature has been modified.

181. The method of claim 173 wherein receiving the license request comprises receiving license request information including an identification of the license requestor, and wherein checking the license request for validity includes checking the identified license requestor against a list of license requestors to determine whether such license requestor is license-able.

182. The method of claim 173 wherein the license request originates from a device, wherein receiving the license request comprises receiving license request information including an identification of the device, and wherein checking the license request for validity includes checking the identified device against a list of devices to determine whether such device is license-able.

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183. The method of claim 173 wherein receiving the license request comprises receiving license request information including a content ID that identifies the digital content, the method further comprising locating license provider information corresponding to the digital content based on the content ID, the license provider information including a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, license data regarding types of licenses available for the digital content, and terms and conditions for each type of license.

184. The method of claim 183 further comprising transmitting to the license requestor information on the types of licenses available for the digital content.

185. The method of claim 183 wherein generating the requested license comprises generating a license including:

the content ID of the digital content; and

the terms and conditions of the license.

186. The method of claim 185 wherein the license request originates from a device having a public key, and wherein generating the requested license comprises generating a license further including the decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, such decryption key (KD) being encrypted with the public key of the device.

187. The method of claim 185 wherein generating the requested license comprises generating a license further including a digital signature from the license provider

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based on at least a portion of the generated license, the digital signature being encrypted with a license provider private key.

188. The method of claim 185 wherein generating the requested license comprises generating a license further including a certificate indicating that the license provider has the authority to issue the generated license.

189. The method of claim 173 wherein receiving the license request comprises receiving license request information including a key ID that identifies a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, the method further comprising locating the decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content based on the key ID.

190. The method of claim 189 wherein the license request originates from a device having a public key, and wherein generating the requested license comprises generating a license including the decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, such decryption key (KD) being encrypted with the public key of the device.

191. The method of claim 173 wherein negotiating the terms and conditions includes receiving further information as defined by the license provider.

192. The method of claim 173 wherein negotiating the terms and conditions includes determining a payment instrument for paying for the requested license.

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193. The method of claim 173 wherein negotiating the terms and conditions includes determining a payment schedule for paying for the requested license.

194. The method of claim 173 wherein generating the requested license comprises generating the requested license based on the license request.

195. The method of claim 173 further comprising maintaining a record of the issued license.

196. The method of claim 195 further comprising providing to the license requestor upon request a re-issue of the issued license based upon the record of the issued license, wherein the re-issue can replace the issued license in the case where the issued license is lost.

197. The method of claim 173 wherein the issuing the license step comprises issuing the license in a form separate from the digital content.

198. A digital license for rendering a piece of digital content on a device having a public key and a private key, the digital content having a content ID, being encrypted, and being decryptable with a decryption key (KD), the digital license comprising:

the content ID of the digital content;

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a license rights description specifying terms and conditions that must be satisfied before the digital content may be rendered; and

the decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, the decryption key being encrypted with the public key of the device (PU(KD)), wherein the device can apply the private key thereof to (PU(KD)) to obtain the decryption key (KD).

199. The license of claim 198 wherein the license rights description is encrypted with the decryption key (KD).

200. The license of claim 198 further comprising a digital signature for validating the license.

201. The license of claim 200 wherein the license is provided by a license server having a private key and a public key, and wherein the digital signature is encrypted with the private key of the license server.

202. The license of claim 200 wherein the digital signature is based at least in part on the license rights description, wherein alteration of the license rights description prevents the digital signature from validating the license.

203. The license of claim 200 wherein the digital signature is based at least in part on (PU(KD)), wherein alteration of (PU(KD)) prevents the digital signature from validating

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the license.

204. The license of claim 198 wherein the license rights description is written in a predetermined license language, the digital license further comprising a license language tag specifying the license language.

205. The license of claim 198 wherein the license is provided by a license server and the digital content is provided by a content server, the license further comprising a certificate from the content server indicating that the license server has authority from the content server to provide the license.

206. The license of claim 205 wherein the license server has a public key and a private key, and wherein the certificate includes the public key of the license server.

207. The license of claim 206 wherein the content server has a public key and a private key, wherein the certificate is signed with the private key of the content server, and wherein the device obtains the public key of the content server to decrypt the encrypted signature.

208. The license of claim 198 wherein the license is provided by a license server authorized by a root source to provide the license, the license further comprising a certificate from the root source indicating that the license server has authority from the root

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source to provide the license.

209. The license of claim 208 wherein the license server has a public key and a private key, and wherein the certificate includes the public key of the license server.

210. The license of claim 209 wherein the root source has a public key and a private key, wherein the certificate is signed with the private key of the root source, and wherein the device obtains the public key of the root source to decrypt the encrypted signature.

211. The license of claim 198 wherein the license is provided by a license server authorized by an intermediary source to provide the license, the intermediary source in turn being authorized by a root source to authorize the license server, the license further comprising a first certificate from the root source indicating that the intermediary source has authority from the root source to authorize the license server, and a second certificate from the intermediary source indicating that the license server has authority from the intermediary source to provide the license.

212. The license of claim 211 wherein the license server has a public key and a private key, wherein the intermediary source has a public key and a private key, wherein the first certificate includes the public key of the intermediary source, and wherein the second certificate includes the public key of the license server.

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213. The license of claim 212 wherein the root source has a public key and a private key, wherein the first certificate is signed with the private key of the root source, wherein the second certificate is signed with the private key of the intermediary source, and wherein the device obtains the public key of the root source to decrypt the encrypted signature of the first certificate, and wherein the device obtains the public key of the intermediary source from the first certificate to decrypt the encrypted signature of the second certificate.

214. The license of claim 198 in a form separate from the digital content.

215. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure corresponding to a digital license for rendering a piece of digital content on a device having a public key and a private key, the digital content having a content ID, being encrypted, and being decryptable with a decryption key (KD), the data structure comprising:

a first data field containing the content ID of the digital content;

a second data field containing a license rights description specifying terms and conditions that must be satisfied before the digital content may be rendered; and

a third data field containing the decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, the decryption key being encrypted with the public key of the device (PU(KD)), wherein the device can apply the private key thereof to (PU(KD)) to obtain the decryption key (KD).

216. The data structure of claim 215 wherein the license rights description is

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encrypted with the decryption key (KD).

217. The data structure of claim 215 further comprising a fourth data field containing a digital signature for validating the license.

218. The data structure of claim 217 wherein the data structure is provided by a license server having a private key and a public key, and wherein the digital signature is encrypted with the private key of the license server.

219. The data structure of claim 217 wherein the digital signature is based at least in part on the license rights description, wherein alteration of the license rights description prevents the digital signature from validating the license.

220. The data structure of claim 217 wherein the digital signature is based at least in part on (PU(KD)), wherein alteration of (PU(KD)) prevents the digital signature from validating the license.

221. The data structure of claim 215 wherein the license rights description is written in a predetermined license language, the digital license further comprising a fourth data field containing a license language tag specifying the license language.

222. The data structure of claim 215 wherein the data structure is provided by a

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license server and the digital content is provided by a content server, the data structure further comprising a fourth data field containing a certificate from the content server indicating that the license server has authority from the content server to provide the data structure.

223. The data structure of claim 222 wherein the license server has a public key and a private key, and wherein the certificate includes the public key of the license server.

224. The data structure of claim 223 wherein the content server has a public key and a private key, wherein the certificate is signed with the private key of the content server, and wherein the device obtains the public key of the content server to decrypt the encrypted signature.

225. The data structure of claim 215 wherein the data structure is provided by a license server authorized by a root source to provide the license, the license further comprising a fourth data field containing a certificate from the root source indicating that the license server has authority from the root source to provide the license.

226. The data structure of claim 225 wherein the license server has a public key and a private key, and wherein the certificate includes the public key of the license server.

227. The data structure of claim 226 wherein the root source has a public key and a private key, wherein the certificate is signed with the private key of the root source, and

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wherein the device obtains the public key of the root source to decrypt the encrypted signature.

228. The data structure of claim 215 wherein the data structure is provided by a license server authorized by an intermediary source to provide the license, the intermediary source in turn being authorized by a root source to authorize the license server, the license further comprising a fourth data field containing a first certificate from the root source indicating that the intermediary source has authority from the root source to authorize the license server, and a fifth data field containing a second certificate from the intermediary source indicating that the license server has authority from the intermediary source to provide the license.

229. The data structure of claim 228 wherein the license server has a public key and a private key, wherein the intermediary source has a public key and a private key, wherein the first certificate includes the public key of the intermediary source, and wherein the second certificate includes the public key of the license server.

230. The data structure of claim 229 wherein the root source has a public key and a private key, wherein the first certificate is signed with the private key of the root source, wherein the second certificate is signed with the private key of the intermediary source, and wherein the device obtains the public key of the root source to decrypt the encrypted signature of the first certificate, and wherein the device obtains the public key of the intermediary source from the first certificate to decrypt the encrypted signature of the second certificate.

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231. The data structure of claim 215 separate from the digital content.

232. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method for a license requestor to obtain a digital license for rendering a piece of digital content comprising:

contacting a license provider;

sending a license request for the license to the contacted license provider,
the license provider thereafter checking the license request for validity;

negotiating terms and conditions for the requested license with the license
provider, the license provider thereafter generating the requested license; and

receiving the generated license as issued by the license provider.

233. The computer-readable medium of claim 232 wherein the digital content has corresponding license acquisition information including a location of a license provider for providing the license, the method further comprising determining the location of the license provider from the license acquisition information, wherein contacting the license provider comprises contacting the license provider at the determined location.

234. The computer-readable medium of claim 232 wherein the license provider is a license server attached to a communications network, and wherein contacting the license server occurs over the communications network.

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235. The computer-readable medium of claim 234 wherein sending the license request and receiving the generated license occur over the established network connection.

236. The computer-readable medium of claim 232 wherein the license request originates from a device including a security portion, and wherein sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license provider, the license request information including:

an identification of the device;

an identification of the license requestor;

a public key of the device;

a version number of the security portion;

a certificate with a digital signature from a certifying authority certifying the security portion;

a content ID that identifies the digital content; and

a key ID that identifies a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content.

237. The computer-readable medium of claim 232 wherein the license request originates from a device including a security portion, wherein sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license provider, the license request information including a version number of the security portion, the license provider checking the version number of the security portion to determine whether such version number is current.

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238. The computer-readable medium of claim 232 wherein the license request originates from a device including a security portion, wherein sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license provider, the license request information including a certificate with a digital signature from a certifying authority certifying the security portion, license provider checking the certificate with the digital signature from the certifying authority to determine whether such digital signature has been modified.

239. The computer-readable medium of claim 232 wherein sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license provider, the license request information including an identification of the license requestor, the license provider checking the identified license requestor against a list of license requestors to determine whether such license requestor is license-able.

240. The computer-readable medium of claim 232 wherein the license request originates from a device, wherein sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license provider, the license request information including an identification of the device, the license provider checking the identified device against a list of devices to determine whether such device is license-able.

241. The computer-readable medium of claim 232 wherein sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license provider, the license request

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information including a content ID that identifies the digital content, the license provider locating license provider information corresponding to the digital content based on the content ID.

242. The computer-readable medium of claim 241 wherein the license provider information includes a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, license data regarding types of licenses available for the digital content, and terms and conditions for each type of license, the method further comprising receiving from the license provider information on the types of licenses available for the digital content.

243. The computer-readable medium of claim 241 wherein receiving the requested license comprises receiving a license including:

the content ID of the digital content; and
the terms and conditions of the license.

244. The computer-readable medium of claim 243 wherein the license request originates from a device having a public key, and wherein receiving the requested license comprises receiving a license further including the decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, such decryption key (KD) being encrypted with the public key of the device.

245. The computer-readable medium of claim 243 wherein receiving the requested license comprises receiving a license further including a digital signature from the

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246. The computer-readable medium of claim 243 wherein receiving the requested license comprises receiving a license further including a certificate indicating that the license provider has the authority to issue the generated license.

247. The computer-readable medium of claim 232 wherein sending the license request comprises sending license request information to the license provider, the license request information including a key ID that identifies a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, the license provider locating the decryption key (KD) based on the key ID.

248. The computer-readable medium of claim 247 wherein the license request originates from a device having a public key, and wherein receiving the requested license comprises receiving a license including the decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, such decryption key (KD) being encrypted with the public key of the device.

249. The computer-readable medium of claim 232 wherein negotiating the terms and conditions includes providing further information to the license provider as defined thereby.

250. The computer-readable medium of claim 232 wherein negotiating the

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terms and conditions includes determining a payment instrument for paying for the requested license.

251. The computer-readable medium of claim 232 wherein negotiating the terms and conditions includes determining a payment schedule for paying for the requested license.

252. The computer-readable medium of claim 232 wherein the license provider maintains a record of the issued license, the method further comprising receiving from the license provider upon request a re-issue of the issued license based upon the record of the issued license, wherein the re-issue can replace the issued license in the case where the issued license is lost.

253. The computer-readable medium of claim 232 further comprising placing the issued license in a license storage location.

254. The computer-readable medium of claim 232 wherein the receiving the license step comprises receiving the license in a form separate from the digital content.

255. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method for a license provider to provide a digital license for rendering a piece of digital content comprising:

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receiving a request for the license from a license requestor;
checking the license request for validity;
negotiating terms and conditions for the requested license with the license requestor;
generating the requested license; and
issuing the generated license to the license requestor.

256. The computer-readable medium of claim 255 wherein the license provider is a license server attached to a communications network, and wherein receiving the license request occurs over the communications network.

257. The computer-readable medium of claim 256 wherein issuing the generated license occur over the communications network.

258. The computer-readable medium of claim 255 wherein the license request originates from a device including a security portion, and wherein receiving the license request comprises receiving license request information including:

- an identification of the device;
- an identification of the license requestor;
- a public key of the device;
- a version number of the security portion;

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a certificate with a digital signature from a certifying authority
certifying the security portion;

a content ID that identifies the digital content; and

a key ID that identifies a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the
digital content.

259. The computer-readable medium of claim 258 wherein generating the
requested license comprises generating the requested license based on the license request
information.

260. The computer-readable medium of claim 255 wherein the license request
originates from a device including a security portion, wherein receiving the license request
comprises receiving license request information including a version number of the security
portion, and wherein checking the license request for validity includes checking the version
number of the security portion to determine whether such version number is current.

261. The computer-readable medium of claim 260 further comprising refusing
to issue the requested license until the security portion is upgraded to a version having a current
version number.

262. The computer-readable medium of claim 255 wherein the license request
originates from a device including a security portion, wherein receiving the license request

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comprises receiving license request information including a certificate with a digital signature from a certifying authority certifying the security portion, and wherein checking the license request for validity includes checking the certificate with the digital signature from the certifying authority to determine whether such digital signature has been modified.

263. The computer-readable medium of claim 255 wherein receiving the license request comprises receiving license request information including an identification of the license requestor, and wherein checking the license request for validity includes checking the identified license requestor against a list of license requestors to determine whether such license requestor is license-able.

264. The computer-readable medium of claim 255 wherein the license request originates from a device, wherein receiving the license request comprises receiving license request information including an identification of the device, and wherein checking the license request for validity includes checking the identified device against a list of devices to determine whether such device is license-able.

265. The computer-readable medium of claim 255 wherein receiving the license request comprises receiving license request information including a content ID that identifies the digital content, the method further comprising locating license provider information corresponding to the digital content based on the content ID, the license provider information including a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, license data

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regarding types of licenses available for the digital content, and terms and conditions for each type of license.

266. The computer-readable medium of claim 265 further comprising transmitting to the license requestor information on the types of licenses available for the digital content.

267. The computer-readable medium of claim 265 wherein generating the requested license comprises generating a license including:

the content ID of the digital content; and

the terms and conditions of the license.

268. The computer-readable medium of claim 267 wherein the license request originates from a device having a public key, and wherein generating the requested license comprises generating a license further including the decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, such decryption key (KD) being encrypted with the public key of the device.

269. The computer-readable medium of claim 267 wherein generating the requested license comprises generating a license further including a digital signature from the license provider based on at least a portion of the generated license, the digital signature being encrypted with a license provider private key.

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270. The computer-readable medium of claim 267 wherein generating the requested license comprises generating a license further including a certificate indicating that the license provider has the authority to issue the generated license.

271. The computer-readable medium of claim 255 wherein receiving the license request comprises receiving license request information including a key ID that identifies a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, the method further comprising locating the decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content based on the key ID.

272. The computer-readable medium of claim 271 wherein the license request originates from a device having a public key, and wherein generating the requested license comprises generating a license including the decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, such decryption key (KD) being encrypted with the public key of the device.

273. The computer-readable medium of claim 255 wherein negotiating the terms and conditions includes receiving further information as defined by the license provider.

274. The computer-readable medium of claim 255 wherein negotiating the terms and conditions includes determining a payment instrument for paying for the requested license.

275. The computer-readable medium of claim 255 wherein negotiating the

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terms and conditions includes determining a payment schedule for paying for the requested license.

276. The computer-readable medium of claim 255 wherein generating the requested license comprises generating the requested license based on the license request.

277. The computer-readable medium of claim 255 further comprising maintaining a record of the issued license.

278. The computer-readable medium of claim 277 further comprising providing to the license requestor upon request a re-issue of the issued license based upon the record of the issued license, wherein the re-issue can replace the issued license in the case where the issued license is lost.

279. The computer-readable medium of claim 255 wherein the issuing the license step comprises issuing the license in a form separate from the digital content.

In the Abstract:

Please delete the Abstract and insert the following:

--To obtain a digital license for rendering a piece of digital content, a license requestor contacts a license provider and sends a license request. The license provider checks the license request for validity and negotiates with the license requestor terms and conditions for